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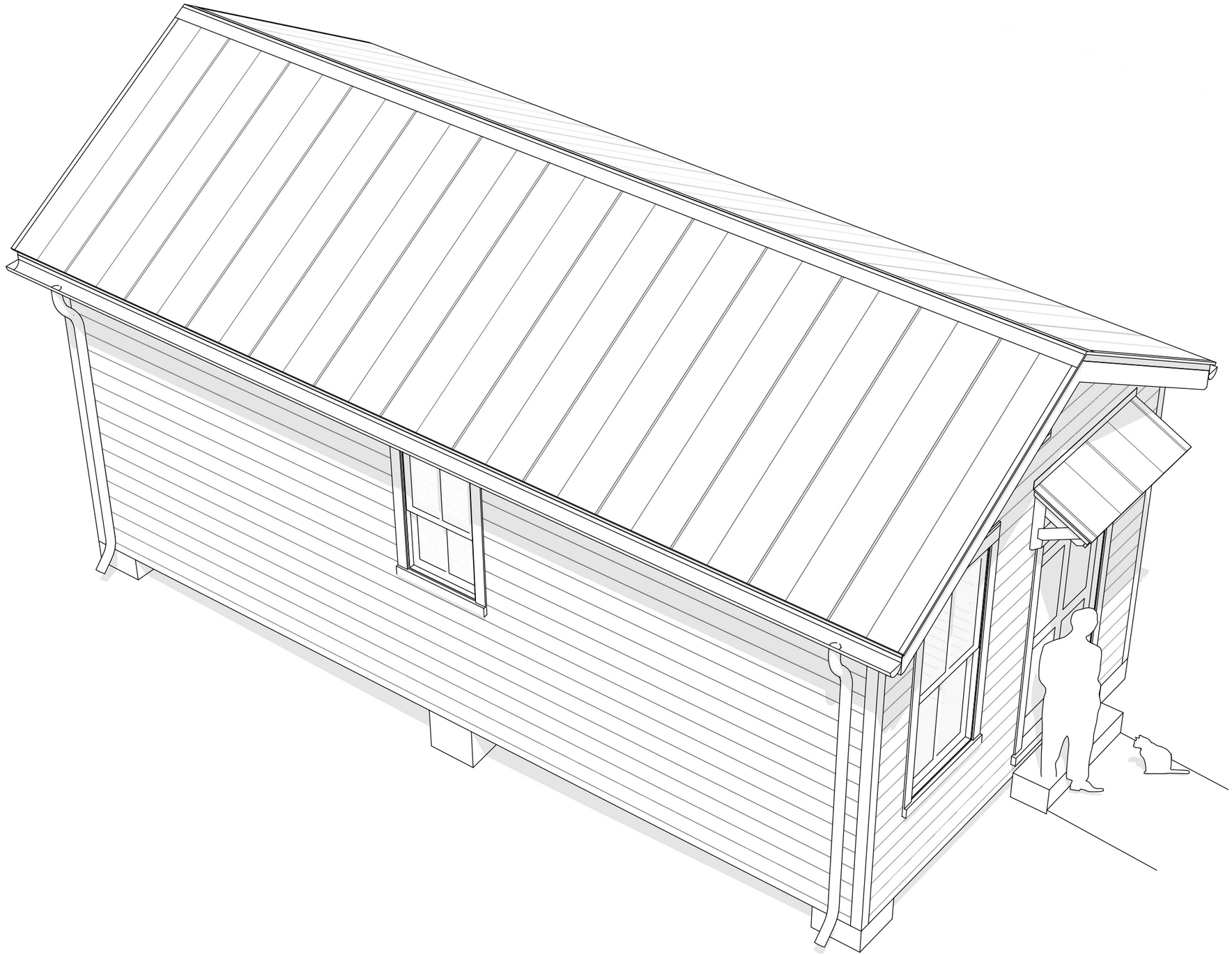
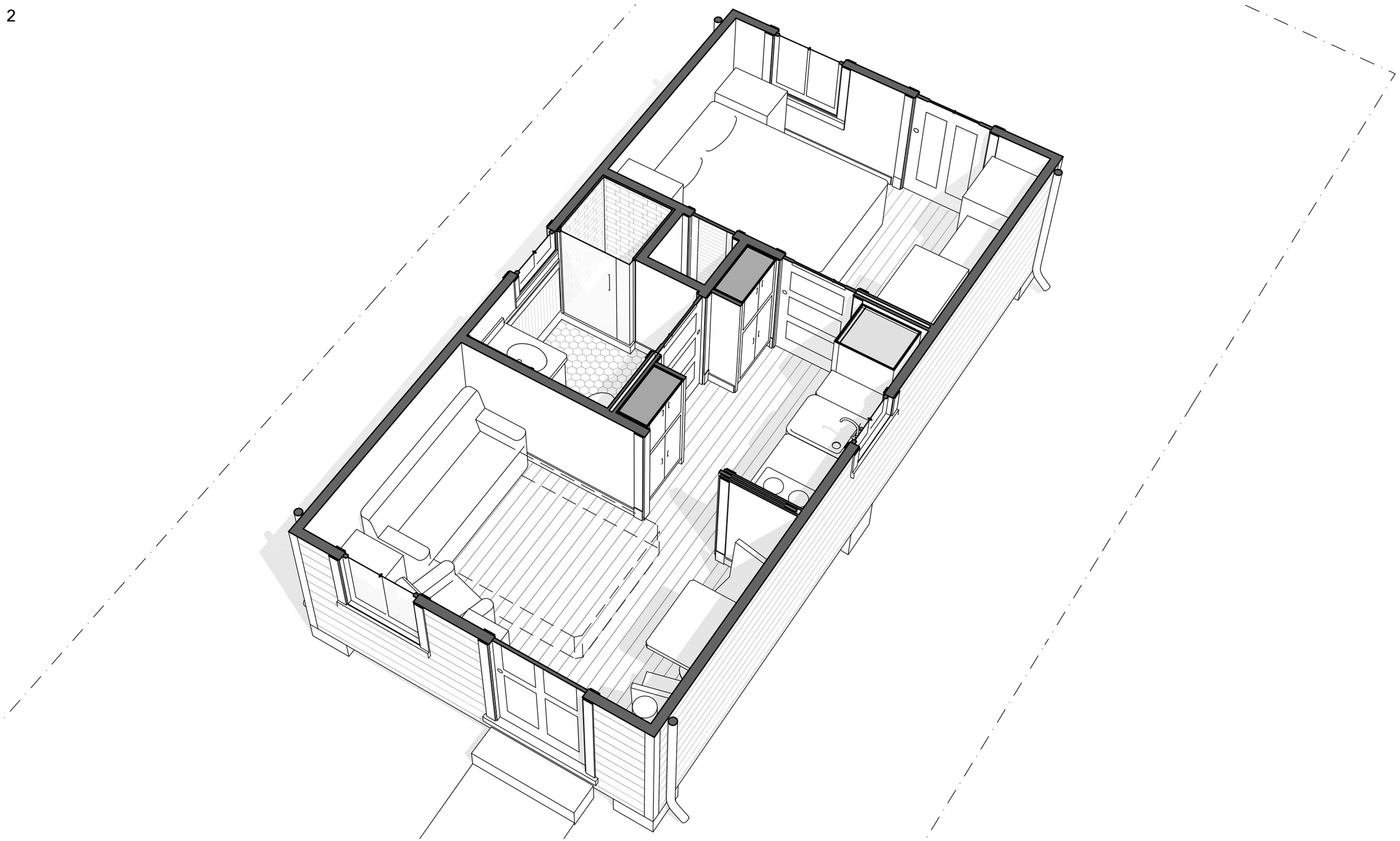


What's a shotgun house? In short, they are simple one-room wide houses with aligned doors that you could theoretically shoot through without hitting anything. Humble is the theme. There's no such thing as a large, luxurious shotgun house.

AERIAL VIEW

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

A true shotgun house is slender– usually 12-14 feet wide. Real estate marketers often use the term for pretentious, bloated houses, but that's foolish or deceptive. Real shotgun houses have countless benefits, so I decided to make these plans.

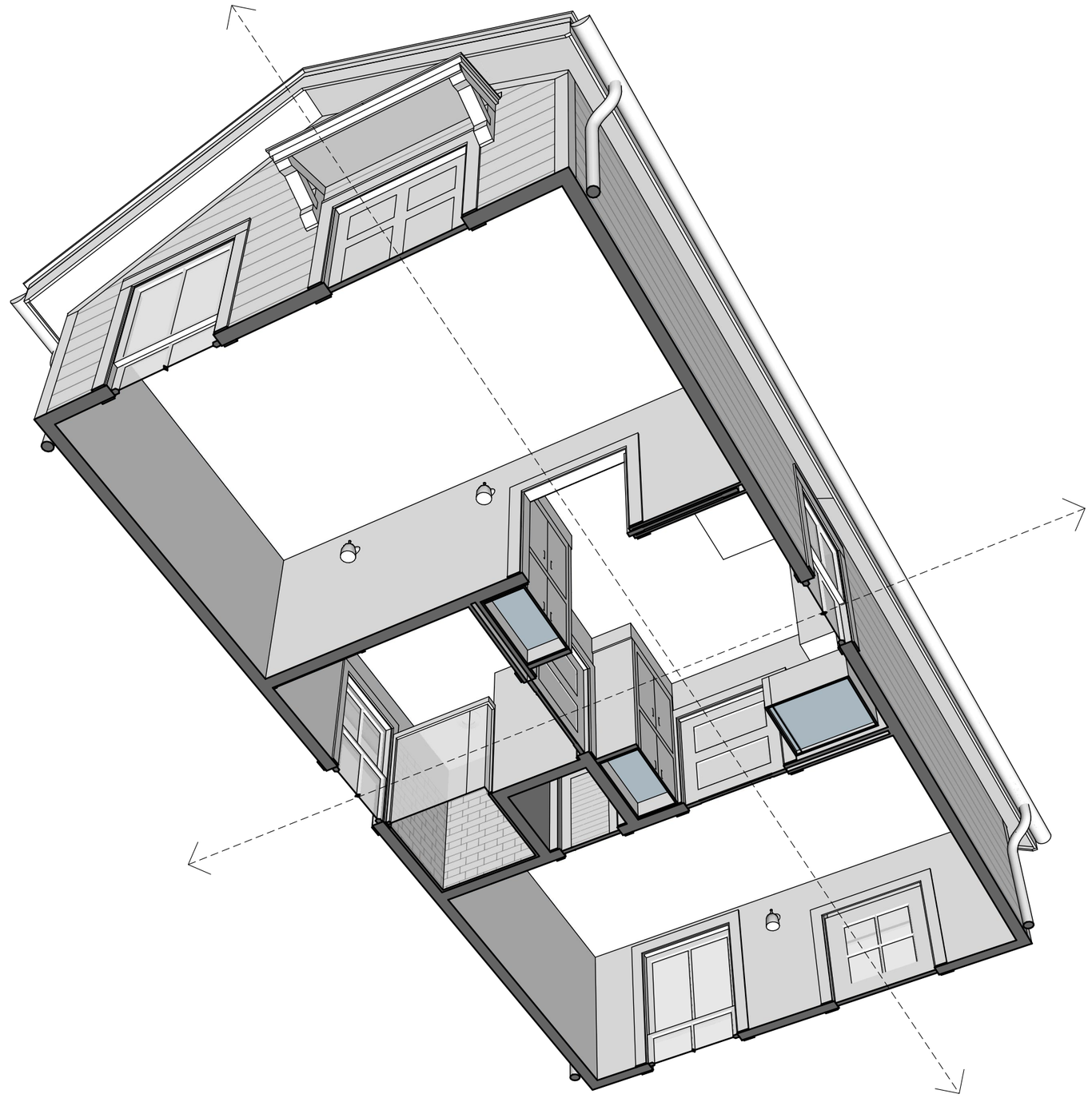


At 12 by 24 feet, this shotgun house is the same size as the one Elvis grew up in, but organized differently. With a centralized kitchen and bathroom, the bedroom is more private, and a pocket door lets the living room also be a guest bedroom.

PLAN LAYOUT

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Considering normal side setbacks, it easily fits on a 20-25 foot wide piece of land. It's narrow enough that it can be built off-site and transported down a highway. If its land value rises over time, it can then be moved again rather than demolished.

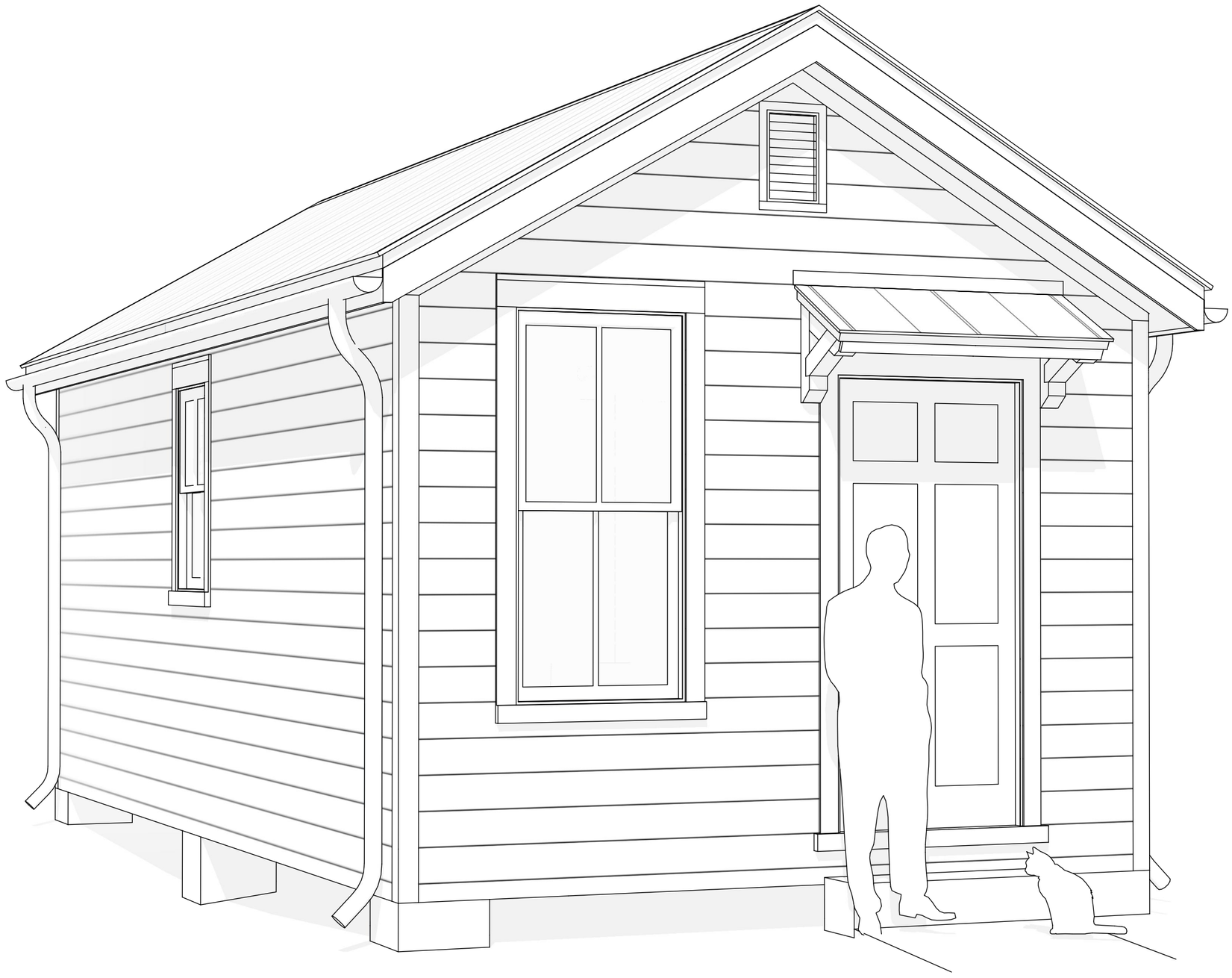


The doors of the house are aligned, which is useful for cross breezes, but also for daylighting. A window at the end of an axis also creates a sensation of airiness. So the front door could also have a glazed opening, but privacy may be preferable.

CEILING VIEW

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Aligning the side windows achieves the same sensation of openness. Cabinets are placed at the kitchen for pantry and utility functions. Overall, everything is scaled to be ideal for 1-2 people to live here, with doors allowing added privacy.

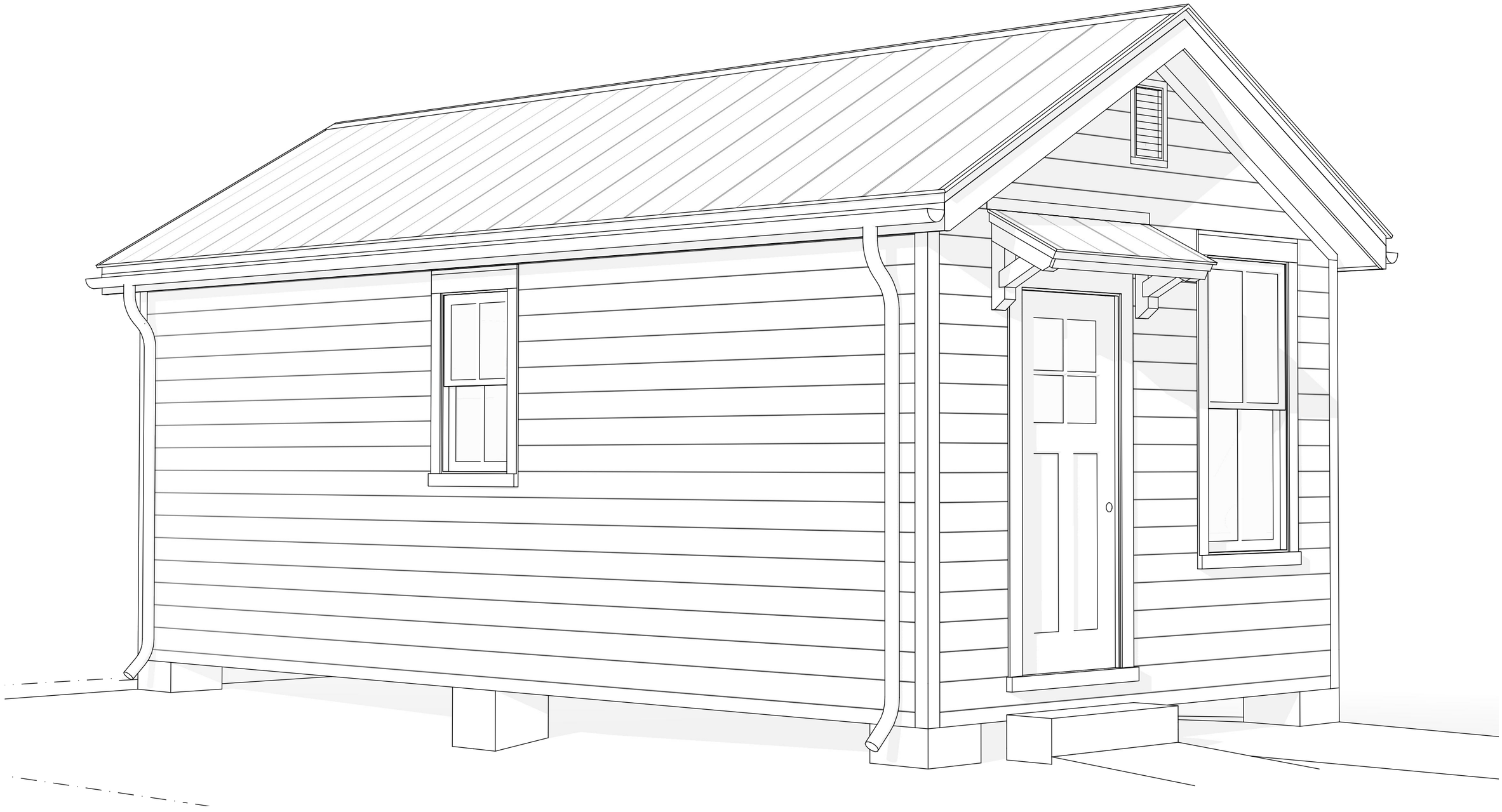


Later, I plan to create four facade options for this shotgun house design. That way, multiple variations could be placed near each other without it feeling like a camp. Side Note: I'm also imagining how this design can be an emergency relief shelter.

FRONT VIEW

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

So one of the options will be simple and economical, just like this. It also fits the humble spirit of shotgun houses. At least 2 options would have a porch. Here, the little awning shelters the screen (or storm) door from harsh sun or heavy rainfall.



Since the back of the house is like the front, it's possible that the 4 facade options could also be rear options. This one is simple, but perhaps the rear could have a porch or an elegant Italianate facade facing a garden. The back could be special.

REAR VIEW

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

The house has a simple step down that could be a connected pair of railroad ties. If the piers were much taller, the steps would have to change considerably, but it is possible to place a carport below the house, perfectly sized for a single car.

This house's layout is so simple that it may be impossible to optimize it any more. The bedroom and living area (which includes the kitchen in the middle) are about as small as possible. Yet four people could comfortably vacation in this tiny home.

SECTION CUT

12x24 SHOTGUN HOUSE

That shows the importance of walls and room organization. An open layout isn't as functional. Even if doors are open most of the time, they still organize our lives. Such timeless room-based functionality is the hallmark of true shotgun houses.

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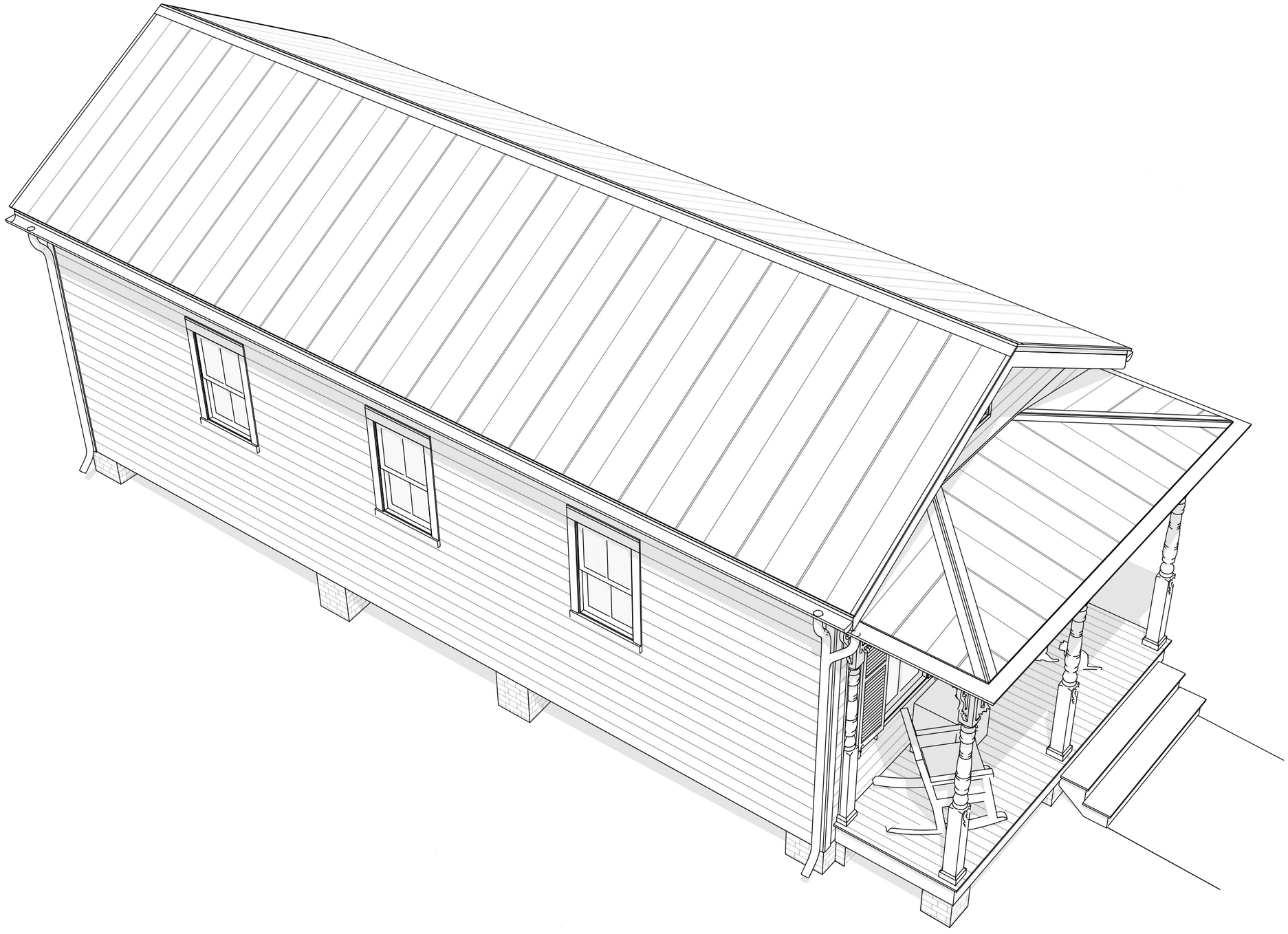
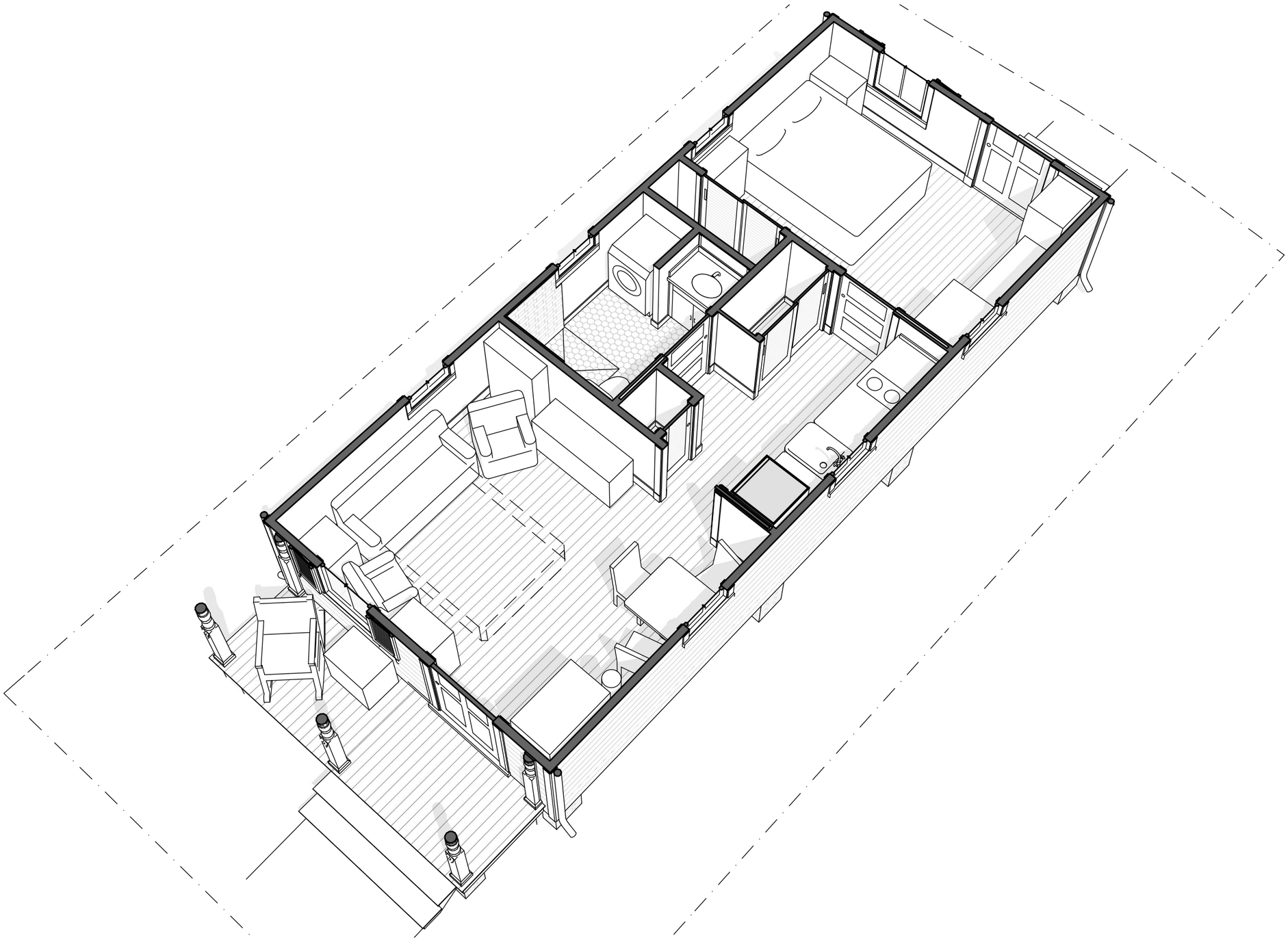


What's a shotgun house? I already explain it with my smaller design, but it's a humble one-room-wide house with aligned doors that you could theoretically shoot straight through. There are of course variations, but that's the essential idea.

AERIAL VIEW

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Most real shotgun houses are narrow enough to be transported down a highway That's a modern-day use case, but fits the original intent and spirit of such homes. Simple and unpretentious, they allow economical shelter for a variety of people.

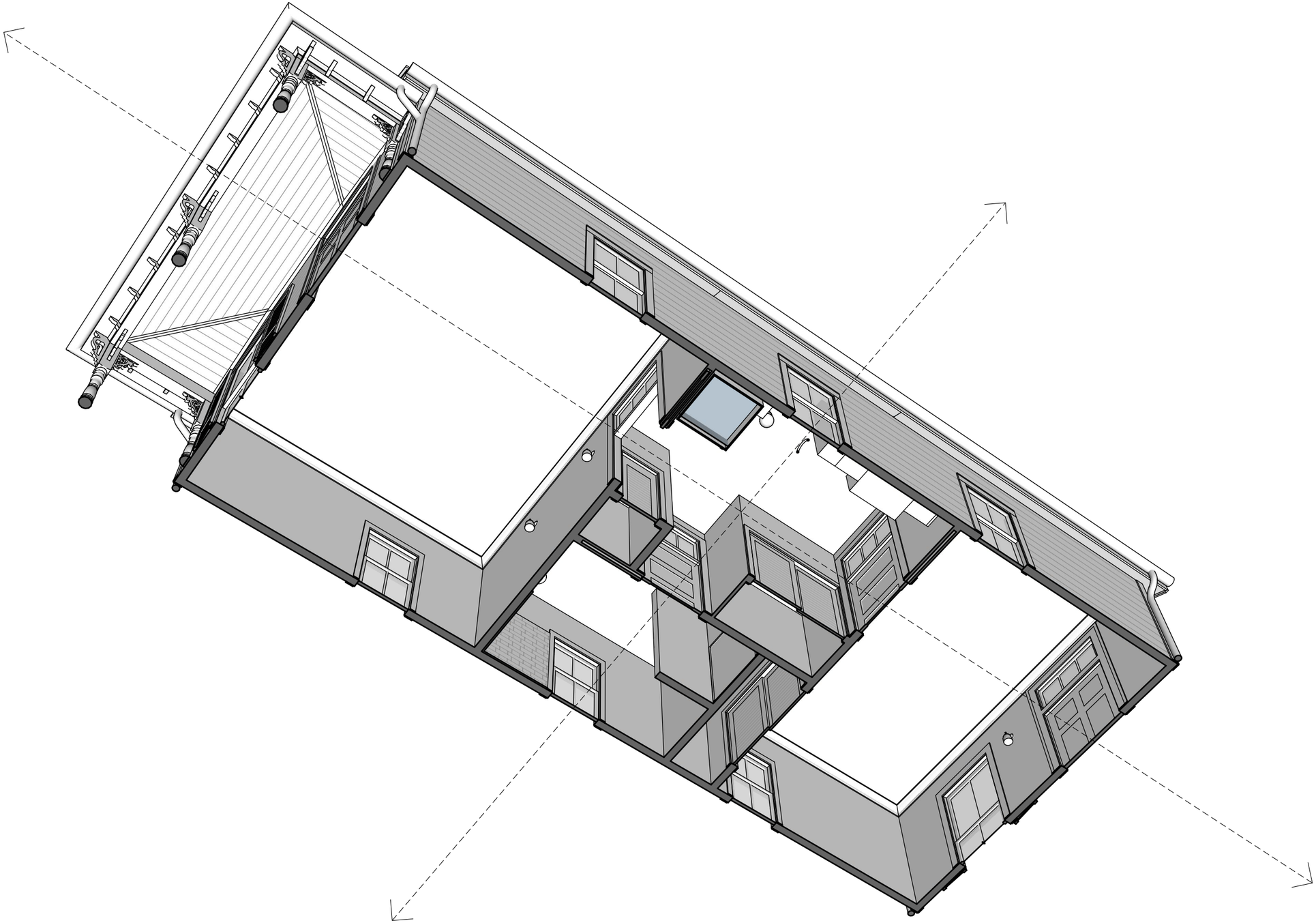


At 14x32 feet, this shotgun house is significantly larger than my 12x24 version. However, it's organized the same– with a central kitchen and bathroom that lends privacy to the bedroom, and a living room you can enclose as a guest bedroom.

PLAN LAYOUT

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Considering side setbacks, this design can also fit on a standard 25-foot-wide lot. Though comfortably wider than my small version, this one is also narrow enough to be trucked down a highway, so it can be built off-site and moved when needed.



The doors of the house are aligned, which is useful for cross breezes, but also for daylighting. Transom windows are used here since this version has tall ceilings. The efficient circulation layout prevents space from being wasted on a hallway.

CEILING VIEW

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

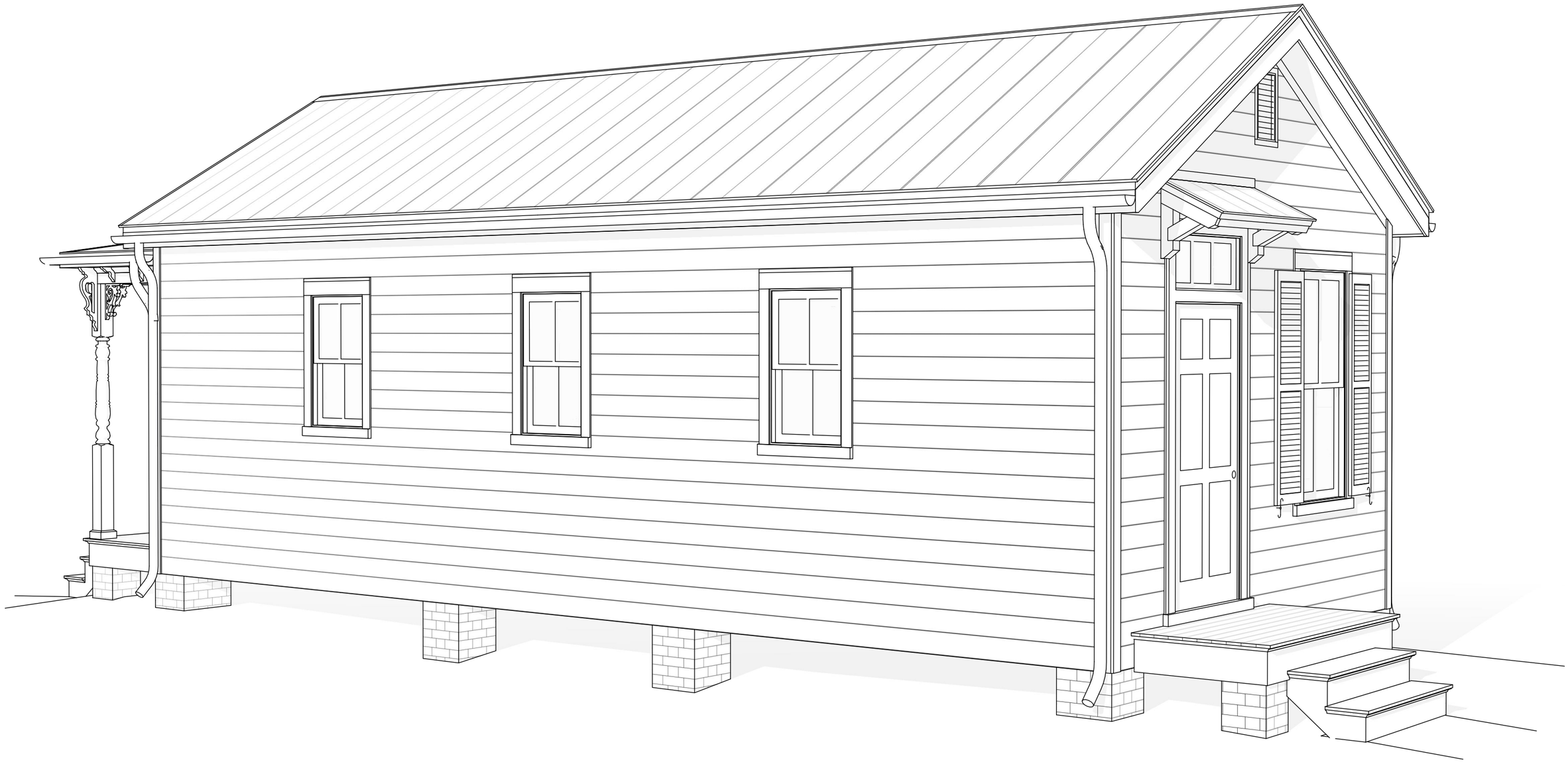
Architecturally aligned openings are considered an “enfilade” layout, a term also used in military tactics (but that probably is not part of the “shotgun” etymology). Aligned openings provide a feeling of spaciousness, useful for a small house.

I plan to create four facade options for this shotgun house design. The interior layout is efficient, but the front of the house can show character and personality. By placing together all the sister variations, they could form a vibrant community.

FRONT VIEW

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Modernist architects have a conditioned aversion to decorated facades. Yet just as our clothing and hairstyle can express unique personalities, we should accept that homes aren't sterile, standardized, soul-crushing machines. We aren't robots.



Since the back of the house has a door and window layout similar to the front, this simple rear can be replaced by another facade option, like another porch. It can also have a deck or patio. It can be less formal, so it has many possibilities.

REAR VIEW

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Some side windows could be omitted if necessary, but they improve daylighting and cross breezes. If by a property line, a side wall can have no windows. With its transoms and tiny size, the design can function with only front and back windows.

This house's layout is efficient, yet adaptable enough for different lifestyles and changes of function. The living room may be an office by day, and nursery by night. Two independent people can live here yet share the bathroom and kitchen.

SECTION CUT

14x32 SHOTGUN HOUSE

Small houses like this one can help people in many ways. As emergency relief housing, or a granny flat. As a vacation cabin, or a minimalist's home sweet home. If connected to the smaller version it can be a dogtrot house. Anything's possible.